



Virginia Lake Water Quality Improvement Project - Meeting Notes

June 2, 2015, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall, Council Chambers

Below are a list of questions, topics and additional information that came up during the community discussion on June 2, 2015.

Proposal for Improved Water Circulation System

- How does it work?
 - The plan is to add an additional outlet structure at the south end of the lake similar to the existing outlet structure at the north end the lake. By adding the new structure at the south end to the existing structure at the north end, a new circulation pattern will develop and water will better circulate throughout the entire lake, rather than just the northeast portion.
 - This is a passive circulation system (rather than an active system using pumps).
- When will the system be constructed?
 - Since the community showed support of the project during the June public meeting, the City is planning to move forward. Construction is planned for the fall 2015.
- What is the cost?
 - The cost is estimated at \$250,000.
- Residents at the meeting supported moving forward with this system. There were several questions that the City is taking back to the scientific working group for consideration and research.
 - Will increasing circulation decrease phosphate concentrations?
- Will the improved circulation plan work year-round?
 - The new circulation system would create better circulation in Virginia Lake 80 percent of the time. It would not help during drought conditions when flows in the Truckee River are too low to contribute flows to Cochran Ditch. During drought periods (occurring approximately 20 percent of the time), water would remain stagnant.

Since the new circulation system would help improve water quality 80 percent of the time, what is being done for the other 20 percent?

- A scientific working group is collecting, monitoring and analyzing water samples from the lake. This information will be used to identify the underlying water quality issues at Virginia Lake to ensure that the solution best addresses the problem. The water quality issue at Virginia Lake took more than 50 years to develop. It is going to take several years to understand the cause and implement a long-term solution.

Can anything else be implemented now?

- The City discussed eight new possible solutions. Please see the PowerPoint for those details.
 - Can any of these be piloted in the short term?
 - Wetlands/Floating islands
 - EPIC sand filtration system
 - City said it would take these ideas back to the scientific working group for additional consideration.
- Duck Feeding Systems
 - Councilmember Duerr said she would like to look at the possibility of adding bird feeding stations to the lake so birds would be fed appropriate food.
 - Concern was brought up about increased pigeon numbers if bird feeding stations are installed.
 - Suggestion to include a public awareness campaign.

Will there be a difference in water quality this year?

- Water quality at Virginia Lake will remain the same this year.

Code violations for duck feeding and cleaning up after dogs

- Residents urged additional enforcement of these codes. Additional Code Enforcement officers have been added to the City.
- There was a question about adding additional signage at the parks. While more signs are possible, it was discussed that too many signs don't make an impact as people do not read them so there has to be a balance.

Concern about trash in the lake

- There was a report of a trash can, traffic cones, and couch cushions in the lake.
- Residents can report problems to Reno Direct at 334-INFO.

Use of pesticides and algaecides at the lake

- There was concern about the use of pesticides and whether that was impacting water quality.
- There was concern about the use of algaecides in the water, but the community was open to some solutions that didn't create negative impacts (such as sodium percarbonate).

Other ideas for consideration

- Possibility of reusing water?
- Concern about unhealthy water blowing on people as they walk along the park
- Aeration with new water?
 - Suggested not to run fountains in the summer during windy conditions